

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-34 were pending in this application.

Claims 20-25 are allowed.

Claims 1-3, 9, 12-19, 26-28, and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Groen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,956,442 (hereinafter "Groen").

Claims 4-8, 10, 11, and 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of Groen in view of Johansen, U.S. Patent No. 6,631,144 (hereinafter "Johansen").

Reconsideration of this application in light of the following remarks is hereby respectfully requested.

Applicants' Reply

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 20-25.

Applicants have amended claims 2, 9, 12, 16, 17, and 31-33 to modify claim dependencies. Applicants have amended claim 26, 27, and 29 to more particularly define the invention. No new matter has been added and the amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 7, 8, 13-15, and 28 without prejudice.

Claims 2-6, 9-12, and 16-19 are now dependent, directly or indirectly, from allowed independent claim 20. For at least this reason, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-6, 9-12, and 16-19 are also allowable.

The Examiner rejected independent claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Groen. Applicants have amended independent claim 26 to incorporate the allowable features of independent claim 20. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of

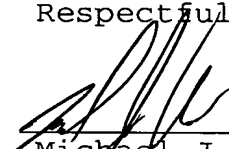
independent claim 26 be withdrawn. Claims 27 and 29-34 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended independent claim 26. For at least this reason, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 27 and 29-34 also be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-6, 9-12, 16-27, and 29-34 are patentable. This application is therefore in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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